

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-13 and 15-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 6 and 13 are amended and claims 8 and 14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) place the application in better form for an appeal, should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, the above amendments incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 8 into independent claim 6 and incorporates the subject matter of claim 14 into independent claim 13. Thus, no new issues are raised. Entry is therefore proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 1-5 and 9 are allowed and that claim 8 contains allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, allowable features of dependent claim 8 are incorporated into independent claim 6. Thus, independent claim 6 defines patentable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,584,118 to Russell and rejects claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Russell in view of U.S. Patent 5,933,432 to Ha et al. (hereafter "Ha"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 13 recites receiving each of a plurality of serial asynchronous data signals into a plurality of elastic buffers, respectively; reading a parallel asynchronous signal of 8 bits as a parallel data byte unit; multiplexing parallel data units read from the plurality of elastic

buffers into a virtual container signal; and generating an STM-1 signal from the virtual container signal. Independent claim 13 also recites reading the parallel data units from the plurality of elastic buffers, according to generated read addresses and writing the plurality of serial asynchronous data signals to the plurality of elastic buffers, according to generated write addresses, wherein a system clock controls the timing of writing the serial asynchronous data to the plurality of elastic buffers and reading the parallel data unit from the plurality of elastic buffers.

The applied references do not teach or suggest these features of independent claim 13. More specifically, the Office Action states (on page 7) that Russell does not disclose the claimed read addresses, write addresses and system clock controls as recited in previous claim 14. The Office Action then relies on Ha's Figure 2 for the missing features. However, the combination of Russell and Ha, even if possibly made, still does not suggest all the features of independent claim 13. That is, Ha does not disclose reading parallel data units from a plurality of elastic buffers, according to generated read addresses. That is, Ha discloses a single read address generator 230 and a single buffer 220. Thus, Ha does not teach the features of independent claim 13 missing from Russell.

Additionally, Ha does not disclose writing the plurality of serial asynchronous data signals to the plurality of elastic buffers, according to generated write addresses. That is, Ha discloses a single write address generator 210 and a single buffer 220. Thus, Ha does not teach the features of independent claim 13 missing from Russell. In view of the above, the applied references do

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not teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 13. Thus, independent claim 13 defines patentable subject matter at least for these reasons.

Each of the dependent claims depends from one of the independent claims and therefore defines patentable subject matter at least for this reason. In addition, the dependent claims recite features that further and independently distinguish over the applied references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7, 9-13 and 15-16 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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